

3.5 Bulldog Trail Upgrades

USAG-AK has proposed to upgrade Bulldog Trail, a dirt/gravel road that runs through training areas in the southeastern portion of Fort Richardson. The trail upgrades will begin at the Davis Range and run south to the installation boundary (Figure 41). The purpose of upgrades along Bulldog Trail is to improve the existing road and to establish hardened road surfaces and drainage features, including crowns, slopes, ditches, water bars and culverts. This will include grading, ditching, installing geotextile and placing fill material. All activities will be confined to hardened surfaces. Upgrading the existing trail will allow for better access to areas used for troop training activities. This project is located on map quadrangle ANC A8, T13N, R2W, Sections 18, 19, 30 and 31.

Survey and Field Methods

In May 2005 USAG-AK cultural resources staff reviewed the proposed project and the existing literature on cultural resources within the Fort Richardson training areas. In June 2005 the southern portion of the project area was pedestrian surveyed by a crew of 4-5 archaeologists employed by the Center for Environmental Management of Military Lands (CEMML, Colorado State University). Julie Raymond-Yakoubian, was the supervising archaeologist for this project. Survey work within the northern portion of the project area was also undertaken in the summers of 2002 and 2003 by CEMML archaeologists (supervised by William Hedman and Kirsten Andersen, respectively).

Parallel pedestrian transects spaced at 20 meters or less were walked in all areas that were not deemed too wet or too steep ($>40^\circ$) to contain cultural material. Systematic sub-surface testing was undertaken in areas determined to be high probability (e.g., lake margins, ridges, benches adjacent to steeper slopes) during initial review of the proposed project area, and as determined by the supervising archaeologist and field crew leader based on survey findings. In addition to pedestrian transects, 40cm x 40cm shovel tests were excavated in the project area.

The entire length of the proposed Bulldog Trail upgrades project has been archaeologically surveyed for at least 100 meters on both sides. For much of its length, several hundred meters or more have been surveyed on each side.

Cultural Resources

There are no known National Register eligible cultural resources located within the proposed project area. Additionally, pedestrian survey and shovel testing throughout the project area did not identify any National Register eligible cultural resources along, or in the vicinity of, Bulldog Trail. No National Register eligible cultural resources were located during any of the survey activities in 2002, 2003 or 2005. AHRs maps at the Office of History and Archaeology indicate that a segment of the Iditarod National Historic Trail may have run through a portion of the project area. This segment of the trail currently has no AHRs number (personal communication with Mary Hermon, 12/28/05). The possible route of the trail found on AHRs maps differs from that of Bulldog Trail. Additionally, no evidence of the trail was noted through pedestrian survey or shovel testing.

In 2003, CEMML archaeologists identified the remains of two log structures in the vicinity of Bulldog Trail (Robertson et al. 2004:14-18). Both of the structures were clearly modern and hastily and incompletely constructed with logs that still had bark attached. These structures were likely built as part of troop training exercises. Numerous fox

holes and other military training features were located in the vicinity of one of the structures, as well as throughout the entire project area.

Results

After a review of the proposed projects USAG-AK has determined that there are no historic properties located within the project areas. Additionally, all other previously recorded archaeological sites or historic properties at Fort Richardson fall outside of the proposed project areas. USAG-AK has determined that no historic properties will be affected by the proposed projects.

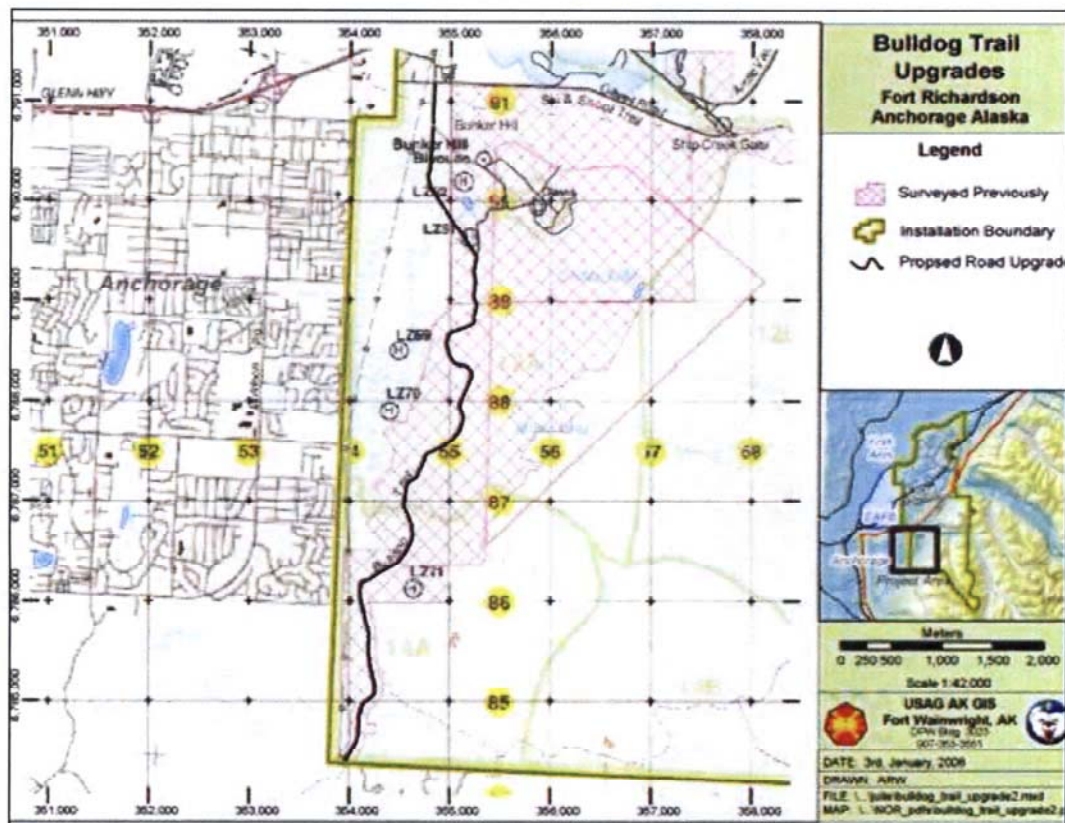


Figure 41. Project area map showing Bulldog Trail



Figure 42. General view of project area, along Bulldog Trail